

Message Text

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FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BANGKOK PHNOM PENH
RANGOON SAIGON FROM VIENTIANE 05 NOV 73:

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SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR
AUG-SEP 1973

REF: VIENTIANE 2570

SUMMARY: RECENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN LAOS HAS
IMPACTED ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN THAT
LAO NATIONAL POLICE FORCES ARE BEING REORGANIZED
TO PROVIDE THE RLG SEGMENT OF JOINT SECURITY CON-
TROL DIVISION UNITS BEING ESTABLISHED AS A RESULT
OF FEB 21 AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A PROVISIONAL
GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION. A TOTAL EVAL-
UATION OF THE WAT THAM KHA BOK DETOXIFICATION
TREATMENT AND CHANGES RELATED TO IMPROVING THE
PROGRAM ARE NOW UNDERWAY. AGRICULTURE REDIRECTION
PROGRAM IN HOUA KHONG AND LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE
ARE PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY AND FACILITIES FOR TRAINING
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HILLTRIBE FARMERS ARE NEARING COMPLETION. NARCOTICS

CONTROL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES WILL NOW BE REPORTED ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.

1. ENFORCEMENT:

A. ON AUG 2 LAO NATIONAL POLICE SEIZED 7.9KG OF NO. 3 HERION IN VIENTIANE. INVESTIGATION INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH TWO LAO AIR AMERICAN EMPLOYEES WERE ARRESTED THERE WAS NO APPARENT USE OF AIR AMERICA FACILITIES OR AIRCRAFT. (SEE VTE 5417).

B. AUG 9 GSI SEIZED 19.3 KG OPIUM IN LUANG PRABANG AND ONE PERSON WAS ARRESTED.

C. ON AUG 10 LAO NATIONAL POLICE, MILITARY POLICE AND GSI WORKING TOGETHER ON INTELLIGENCE LEAD SEIZED 2.6 KG OF NO. 4 HEROIN AND THREE LAO WERE ARRESTED (SEE VTE 5613).

D. ON SEPT 29 LAO NATIONAL POLICE AND MILITARY POLICE SEIZED 18.3 KG OF OPIUM IN 16 PACKAGES CONCEALED INSIDE SOAP POWDER BOXES. ONE ARREST WAS MADE (SEE VETE 6921).

3. NARCOTIC SEIZURE UPDATE. ALL ENFORCEMENT PRO-GRAMS DURING AUG-SEPT 1973: OPIUM 41.6, HERION 10.5 KG.

F. SIGNING OF CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT ON FEB 21 AND ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT ON AUG 20 HAS INTERFERED WITH NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES WITHIN COUNTRY. UNDER TERMS OF THE 14 SEPTEMBER PROTOCOL FOR ESTABLISHING THE NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION LAO NATIONAL POLICE WILL BE RE-ORGANIZED INTO JOINT SECURITY CONTROL DIVISION UNITS IN VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG. PERSONNEL FOR THESE UNITS WILL BE DRAWN FROM LAO NATIONAL POLICE AND LPF FORCES THROUGHOUT LAOS. IT NOW APPEARS THAT LAO NATIONAL POLICE WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY 1,500 PERSONNEL FOR THE COMBINED UNITS. UNTIL RE-ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED LNP NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM WILL BE HAMPERED BY CHANGING LNP PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS. GSI AND LAO CUSTOMS HAVE NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN AFFECTED BY RECENT POLITICAL CHANGES AND ARE OPERATING AS USUAL.

2. ADDICT REHABILITATION: EVALUATION OF WAT THAM KHA BOK TREATMENT PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY. SEVERAL NEW CONSTRUCTIVE DIRECTIONS WILL BE TAKEN TO MAKE TREATMENT MORE EFFECTIVE. THIS INCLUDES A RECEPTION CENTER IN BAN HOU EI SAI TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR ADDICTS PRIOR

TO DEPARTURE FOR THAILAND. TWO MED TECHS FROM NATIONAL DETOXIFICATION CENTER IN VIENTIANE WILL PROVIDE SUPPORTATIVE MEDICATION AND SYMPTOMATIC RELIEF OF NARCOTICS ADDICTION PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF ADDICTS FOR THAILAND. RECEPTION FACILITY WILL ALSO PROVIDE FOLLOW-UP TREATMENT OF FORMER ADDICTS COMING FROM WAT THAM KHA BOK PRIOR TO THEIR RETURNING TO THEIR OWN VILLAGES. THIS RECEPTION CARE FACILITY IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE OVERALL DETOXIFICATION SUCCESS RATE OF THE WAT THAM KHA BOK DETOXIFICATION PROGRAM. CONSTRUCTION DETAILS FOR NEW NATIONAL DETOXIFICATION CENTER IN VIENTIANE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN SOMETIME IN DECEMBER.

3. AGRICULTURE REDIRECTION: PLANS NOW UNDERWAY TO PLANT IMPROVED JAPANESE MUSHROOM SPORES AT PHOU PHA DENG INTRODUCTION CENTER IN HOUA KHONG PROVINCE. 350 FRUIT TREES OF 18 SPECIES AND 34 VARIETIES HAVE ALSO BEEN PLANTED. PLANTING OF SEVEN VARIETIES OF FORAGES AND COVER CROPS HAVE BEEN MADE AT ELEVATION OF 1,200 METERS. APPROXIMATELY 115 HECTARES OF LAND HAVE BEEN CLEARED AT NA KONG RESETTLEMENT PROJECT. LAND CLEARING WAS RESUMED AGAIN IN SEPT AS MONSOON RAINS ABATED. COMPLETE RELIANCE MECHANICAL CLEARING OF LAND WILL NOT MEET DEMAND. ONE ALTERNATIVE NOW BEING EXPLORED IS USE TRADITIONAL PADDY GROWERS TO ADVISE TRIBAL VILLAGERS ON HAD LAND CLEARING AND PADDY BUILDING TECHNIQUES. GARLIC WILL BE PLANTED AS A DRY SEASON CASH CROP AFTER RICE IS HARVESTED. A NUMBER OF MEO TRAINEES GRADUTED FROM AGRICULTURAL REDIRECTION CENTER IN LUANG PRABANG THIS MONTH. A TOTAL OF 60 HILLTRIBE FARMERS HAVE GRADUATED FROM CENTER AND A NEW CLASS NOW IN SESSION.

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VISITS TO TRAINEE VILLAGES INDICATE THAT HILLTRIBE FARMERS ARE CARING FOR SMALL ANIMALS GIVEN TO THEM, HOWEVER, NOT ALL SEED DISTRIBUTED TO PROVIDE SUBSTITUEE CROP FOR OPIUM HAS BEEN PLANTED BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT TIME TO CLEAR GROUND PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF MONSOON RAINS.

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES:

A. MR. BOUN NHOU, LAO CUSTOMS DIRECTOR, HAS RETURNED FROM NARCOTICS ORIENTATION TRAINING IN THE U.S.

B. TWO NEW CUSTOMS ADVISORS HAVE ARRIVED AT POST.

C. TRI-COUNTRY NARCOTICS CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN

BANGKOK FROM SEPT 18-21 (SEE BKK 15276).

D. IN FUTURE, STATUS REPORT COVERING NARCOTICS
CONTROL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES WILL BE SUBMITTED ON
QUARTERLY BASIS. REASON FOR QUARTERLY SUBMISSION
IS THAT PROGRAM IS RUNNING SMOOTHLY AND INITIAL
STAGES OF ITS DEVELOPMENT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.
IN VIEW OF THIS CONSIDERATION, MISSION BELIEVES IT NO
LONGER NECESSARY TO SEND MONTHLY REPORTS. ALL
SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM CHANGES AND IMPORTANT SEIZURES
WILL BE REPORTED AS THEY OCCUR. WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE RUSH

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